

REMARKS

The present application was filed on December 11, 2001 with claims 1-25. Claims 1 and 22-25 were the independent claims. All the claims were variously rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§112 second paragraph, 102(c), and 103(a).

The Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences (BPAI) affirmed the rejections of claims 1-7, 9, 10, 17, and 19-25. However, the BPAI reversed the rejections of dependent claims 8, 11-16, and 18. Accordingly, the present amendment places each of dependent claims 8, 11-16, and 18 into independent form in accordance with MPEP §1214.06.

Respectfully submitted,

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